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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BENJAMIN MEZA,  
Plaintiff,

v.

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS; PALM  
SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT and  
DOES 1-10, inclusive,  
Defendants.

CASE NO: EDCV14-00509 SJO (SPx)

BEFORE THE HONORABLE  
S. JAMES OTERO  
COURTROOM 1, 2ND FLOOR

**“DISCOVERY MATTER”**

**STIPULATION AND PROTECTIVE  
ORDER  
[NOTE CHANGE MADE BY  
COURT IN PARAGRAPH 6.3]**

**1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS**

Disclosure and discovery activity in this action are likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the

1 applicable legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section  
2 12.3, below, that this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to file  
3 confidential information under seal; Civil Local Rule 79-5 and General Order 62 set  
4 forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when  
5 a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

6 **2. DEFINITIONS**

7 2.1 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation  
8 of information or items under this Order.

9 2.2 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of  
10 how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection  
11 under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c).

12 2.3 Counsel (without qualifier): Outside Counsel of Record and House  
13 Counsel (as well as their support staff).

14 2.4 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or  
15 items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as  
16 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

17 2.5 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless of  
18 the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including,  
19 among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or  
20 generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

21 2.6 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter  
22 pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as an  
23 expert witness or as a consultant in this action.

24 2.7 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this action.  
25 House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside  
26 counsel.

27 2.8 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or  
28 other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

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2 2.9 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a party  
3 to this action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this action and have  
4 appeared in this action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm which  
5 has appeared on behalf of that party.

6 2.10 Party: any party to this action, including all of its officers, directors,  
7 employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their  
8 support staffs).

9 2.11 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or  
10 Discovery Material in this action.

11 2.12 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation support  
12 services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or  
13 demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium)  
14 and their employees and subcontractors.

15 2.13 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is  
16 designated as "CONFIDENTIAL."

17 2.14 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material  
18 from a Producing Party.

19 **3. SCOPE**

20 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only  
21 Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted  
22 from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of  
23 Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by Parties  
24 or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material. However, the protections  
25 conferred by this Stipulation and Order do not cover the following information: (a)  
26 any information that is in the public domain at the time of disclosure to a Receiving  
27 Party or becomes part of the public domain after its disclosure to a Receiving Party as  
28 a result of publication not involving a violation of this Order, including becoming part

1 of the public record through trial or otherwise; and (b) any information known to the  
2 Receiving Party prior to the disclosure or obtained by the Receiving Party after the  
3 disclosure from a source who obtained the information lawfully and under no  
4 obligation of confidentiality to the Designating Party. Any use of Protected Material  
5 at trial shall be governed by a separate agreement or order.

6 **4. DURATION**

7 Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations  
8 imposed by this Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees  
9 otherwise in writing or a court order otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be  
10 deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all claims and defenses in this action, with or  
11 without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after the completion and exhaustion  
12 of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this action, including the time  
13 limits for filing any motions or applications for extension of time pursuant to  
14 applicable law.

15 **5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL**

16 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.  
17 Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under this  
18 Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies  
19 under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must designate for protection  
20 only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written communications that  
21 qualify – so that other portions of the material, documents, items, or communications  
22 for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the ambit of  
23 this Order.

24 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations  
25 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper  
26 purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber or retard the case development process or to  
27 impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) expose the Designating  
28 Party to sanctions.

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3 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it  
4 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must  
5 promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

6 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in  
7 this Order (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise  
8 stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection  
9 under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or  
10 produced.

11 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

12 (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic documents,  
13 but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings), that the  
14 Producing Party affix the legend "CONFIDENTIAL" to each page that contains  
15 protected material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for  
16 protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s)  
17 (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

18 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents or materials available for  
19 inspection need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has  
20 indicated which material it would like copied and produced. During the inspection  
21 and before the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be  
22 deemed "CONFIDENTIAL." After the inspecting Party has identified the documents  
23 it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which documents,  
24 or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then, before producing  
25 the specified documents, the Producing Party must affix the "CONFIDENTIAL"  
26 legend to each page that contains Protected Material. If only a portion or portions of  
27 the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly  
28 identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the  
margins).

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2 (b) for testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial or trial proceedings,  
3 that the Designating Party identify on the record, before the close of the deposition,  
4 hearing, or other proceeding, all protected testimony.

5 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and for any  
6 other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the  
7 exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the  
8 legend "CONFIDENTIAL." If only a portion or portions of the information or item  
9 warrant protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the  
10 protected portion(s).

11 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent  
12 failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the  
13 Designating Party's right to secure protection under this Order for such material.  
14 Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable  
15 efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this  
16 Order.

17 **6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS**

18 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a  
19 designation of confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a Designating  
20 Party's confidentiality designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial  
21 unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the  
22 litigation, a Party does not waive its right to challenge a confidentiality designation by  
23 electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original designation is disclosed.

24 6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute  
25 resolution process by providing written notice of each designation it is challenging  
26 and describing the basis for each challenge. To avoid ambiguity as to whether a  
27 challenge has been made, the written notice must recite that the challenge to  
28 confidentiality is being made in accordance with this specific paragraph of the

1 Protective Order. The parties shall attempt to resolve each challenge in good faith and  
2 must begin the process by conferring directly (in voice to voice dialogue; other forms  
3 of communication are not sufficient) within 14 days of the date of service of notice.  
4 In conferring, the Challenging Party must explain the basis for its belief that the  
5 confidentiality designation was not proper and must give the Designating Party an  
6 opportunity to review the designated material, to reconsider the circumstances, and, if  
7 no change in designation is offered, to explain the basis for the chosen designation. A  
8 Challenging Party may proceed to the next stage of the challenge process only if it has  
9 engaged in this meet and confer process first or establishes that the Designating Party  
10 is unwilling to participate in the meet and confer process in a timely manner.

11 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the Parties cannot resolve a challenge without  
12 court intervention, the Designating Party shall file and serve a motion to retain  
13 confidentiality under Civil Local Rule 37 (and in compliance with Civil Local Rule  
14 79-5 and General Order 62, if applicable) within 30 days of the initial notice of  
15 challenge or within 14 days of the parties agreeing that the meet and confer process  
16 will not resolve their dispute, whichever is earlier. Each such motion must be  
17 accompanied by a competent declaration affirming that the movant has complied with  
18 the meet and confer requirements imposed in the preceding paragraph. Failure by the  
19 Designating Party to make such a motion including the required declaration within 21  
20 days (or 14 days, if applicable) shall automatically waive the confidentiality  
21 designation for each challenged designation. In addition, the Challenging Party may  
22 file a motion challenging a confidentiality designation at any time if there is good  
23 cause for doing so, including a challenge to the designation of a deposition transcript  
24 or any portions thereof. Any motion brought pursuant to this provision must be  
25 accompanied by a competent declaration affirming that the movant has complied with  
26 the meet and confer requirements imposed by the preceding paragraph.

27 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the  
28 Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose



(e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating Party has waived the confidentiality designation by failing to file a motion to retain confidentiality as described above, all parties shall continue to afford the material in question the level of protection to which it is entitled under the Producing Party's designation until the court rules on the challenge.

## **7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this case only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Such Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this Order. When the litigation has been terminated, a Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL DISPOSITION).

Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this Order.

7.2 Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated "CONFIDENTIAL" only to:

(a) the Receiving Party's Outside Counsel of Record in this action, as well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A;

(b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

(c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom



disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

(d) the court and its personnel;

(e) court reporters and their staff, professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

(f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material must be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order.

(g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

## **8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION**

If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

(a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

(b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

(c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

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2 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with  
3 the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this  
4 action as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the  
5 subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s  
6 permission. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking  
7 protection in that court of its confidential material – and nothing in these provisions  
8 should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this action to  
9 disobey a lawful directive from another court.

10 **9. A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE**  
11 **PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION**

12 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-  
13 Party in this action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information  
14 produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the  
15 remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be  
16 construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

17 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to  
18 produce a Non-Party’s confidential information in its possession, and the Party is  
19 subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party’s  
20 confidential information, then the Party shall:

21 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party  
22 that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement  
23 with a Non-Party;

24 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated  
25 Protective Order in this litigation, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably  
26 specific description of the information requested; and

27 (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-  
28 Party.

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2 (c) If the Non-Party fails to object or seek a protective order from this court  
3 within 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving  
4 Party may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the  
5 discovery request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving  
6 Party shall not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to  
7 the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the court.  
8 Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense  
9 of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

10 **10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

11 If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed  
12 Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this  
13 Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in  
14 writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts  
15 to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or  
16 persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order,  
17 and (d) request such person or persons to execute the "Acknowledgment and  
18 Agreement to Be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

19 **11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE**  
20 **PROTECTED MATERIAL**

21 When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain  
22 inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection,  
23 the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil  
24 Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure  
25 may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production without prior  
26 privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar as the  
27 parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a communication or  
28 information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work product protection, the

1 parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated protective order submitted to  
2 the court.

3 **12. MISCELLANEOUS**

4 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any  
5 person to seek its modification by the court in the future.

6 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this  
7 Protective Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to  
8 disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in this  
9 Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any  
10 ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.

11 12.3 Filing Protected Material. Without written permission from the  
12 Designating Party or a court order secured after appropriate notice to all interested  
13 persons, a Party may not file in the public record in this action any Protected Material.  
14 A Party that seeks to file under seal any Protected Material must comply with Civil  
15 Local Rule 79-5 and General Order 62. Protected Material may only be filed under  
16 seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the specific Protected Material  
17 at issue. Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 79-5 and General Order 62, a sealing order will  
18 issue only upon a request establishing that the Protected Material at issue is  
19 privileged, protectable as a trade secret, or otherwise entitled to protection under the  
20 law. If a Receiving Party's request to file Protected Material under seal pursuant to  
21 Civil Local Rule 79-5 and General Order 62 is denied by the court, then the Receiving  
22 Party may file the information in the public record pursuant to Civil Local Rule 79-5  
23 unless otherwise instructed by the court.

24 **13. FINAL DISPOSITION**

25 Within 60 days after the final disposition of this action, as defined in paragraph  
26 4, each Receiving Party must return all Protected Material to the Producing Party or  
27 destroy such material. As used in this subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes  
28 all copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries, and any other format reproducing or

capturing any of the Protected Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was returned or destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective Order as set forth in Section 4 (DURATION).

IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

DATED: September 24, 2014

s/ Dale K. Galipo  
Dale K. Galipo  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

DATED: September 24, 2014

s/ Patrick M. Desmond  
Patrick M. Desmond  
Attorneys for Defendants

PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: September 29, 2014\_\_\_\_

/s/  
Sheri Pym  
United States Magistrate Judge